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Remarks by HRVP Ashton at the end of her visit to Lebanon, 23rd October 2012

I want to begin by saying that at this difficult moment for Lebanon, I want to express my deep sympathy after Friday's attack.

The European Union stands by Lebanon and its people.

During my visit today, I have met with the three Presidents, the head of the Future Movement and the Commander of the Army. I have expressed full European Union support for the unity of the country.

Such acts of terrorism are designed to provoke reaction and to create tensions.

I welcome the efforts undertaken to maintain stability through national dialogue.

And I encourage all political leaders to work towards constructive solutions to the main challenges that face Lebanon today.

At such times the importance of robust State institutions that continue to ensure security and provide services cannot be understated.

Acknowledging too the difficult regional situation, I take this opportunity to commend the Lebanese authorities and host communities as well as our humanitarian partners for their support to those Syrians forced to flee their country.

P R E S S

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Long-term stability requires implementation of a wide range of political, economic and social reforms and a commitment to greater social justice, as we recently agreed in our revised joint Action Plan.

Today the European Union stands by Lebanon in this difficult moment and we will remain a consistent partner for all the people of this country.

Thank you so much.
